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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO SERBIA ON  
INTERNATIONAL STEERING GROUP

[¶1.](#) Should Serbia or another OSCE participating raise the International Steering Group (ISG) for Kosovo during the March 6 Permanent Council meeting, Post is authorized to present the response at paragraph 2, either as an individual country statement or as a joint statement with other ISG members.

[¶2.](#) Begin text of statement:

On behalf of the fifteen members of the International Steering Group for Kosovo, we would like to bring to the attention of all OSCE participating States the statement issued by the group following its inaugural meeting here in Vienna a week ago.

In line with that statement, the countries belonging to the ISG would like to reiterate the following points:

The ISG was formed in response to a formal request from Kosovo's leaders following Kosovo's independence on February [¶17.](#)

The group consists of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Representatives of NATO, the European Union, and the European Commission also attended the ISG's inaugural meeting on February 28.

The ISG's purpose is to help guide Kosovo's democratic development in the years ahead. The group will seek to promote good governance, multi-ethnicity and the rule of law. Kosovo's leaders have agreed to cooperate fully with the ISG in meeting these objectives.

The formation of the ISG was envisioned by the Ahtisaari Plan and is consistent with the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

Finally, the countries belonging to the ISG would like to repeat the group's call for all parties in Kosovo and the region to refrain from violence, destabilizing actions, or provocative rhetoric that condones or incites violence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

End text of statement.

RICE